answer to Unstarred Question 1267 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the shield of Bombay High Court stay order M/s. Pfizer overcharged the prices of Vitamin formulations and under the guise of Delhi High Court stay they overcharged the prices of antibiotics;

(b) what was the price charged for each and what was the price fixed.

(c) when were the prices fixed and upto what period prices were overcharged;

(d) when was the stay granted by each court and when was decision given by the Courts;

(e) what are the main decisions in each case;

(f) whether it is a fact that company is importing drugs from their principles and their associates; and

(g) if so what is the quantity of each drug imported during the last three years, year-wise and CIF import price of each consignment?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) M/s. Pfizer Ltd. overcharged the price of Oxytetracycline and Penicillin formulations based on the stay granted by the Delhi High Court and of multivitamin formulations based on the stay granted by the Bombay High Court.

(b) to (g) Information to the extent available would be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Prices of Metronilazole

907. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1269 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any action against M/s. Denis Pharmacy or M/s. May and Baker for overcharging the price of Flagyl Injection;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that formulators of other brands based on Metronidazole have also overcharged the price of their formulations;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that Metronidazole is being sold at a much lower price than the notified price;

(f) what is its notified price and what is the present selling price and what steps have been taken to review the price in order to give relief to consumer;

(g) whether it is a fact that instances of certain drugs of lower market price have come to the notice of his Ministry; and

(h) if so, what are the names of drugs and what action has been taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Denis Pharmacy have been asked to explain reasons for not obtaining price approval from the Government in respect of Flagyl injections.

(c) and (d) The requisite information, to the extent available, will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(e) to (h) Yes, Sir. Some such instances have come to the notice of the Government. The bulk drugs involved are Analgin, Ampicillin, Amoxycillin, Cephalexin, Doxycycline, Metronidazole, Parental Pamoate etc. Government has already reduced price of Analgin on interim basis and also of Doxycycline. BICP has also undertaken fresh Cost-cum-Technical Study in respect of Analgin and Metronidazole to revise their prices.

Procurement of Diphenyl Piperiding

908. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Hoechst is using Diphenyl piperidine Ethyl

Acctamide Bromid eMethylate

(b) if so, what was the source of its procurement and the price of procurement during the last three years, yearwise;

(c) what quantity was consumed during the last three years, yearwise;

(d) whether it is a fact that M/s. Cadila and M/s. Unichem are also using this item; and

(e) if so, what are the sources of their procurement and the quantity procured by each during the last three years, yearwise and the price of each procurement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e) Details will be collected from the concerned companies and placed on the Table of the House.

Working of Special Team to determine the overcharged amounts from drug companies

909. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 29th July, 1990 captioned "Centre may issue notice to drug Industry soon";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Special Team suppressed facts and committed frauds;

(c) what were the circumstances under which the Special Team ignorned the findings of the Supreme Court and the records in the matter of Baralgon Ketone; and

(d) what steps have been taken to inquire into the whole matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

((b) to (d) A number of complaints were received against the findings of the Special Team. It was, therefore, decided to review the findings. This process is in progress. The questions of any action on the findings would arise only after the liabilities including those in the case of Baralgon Katone, are finalised.

Assessment by Special Team to determine the overcharged amounts from drug companies

910. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug companies involved in Supreme Court cases were bound to keep details as per the undertaking given by them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per undertaking records of production, purchases and sales were to be kept;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Special Team did not ask for the details in writing;

(d) when the companies were asked to provide details required for assessment of liability and when the details were provided by each;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the Special Team did not verify the details provided by the companies;

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(g) whether it is also a fact that companies did not provide the calculations to Special Team; and

(h) if so, what action has been taken against the Team and the authority which accepted their findings?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (h) While determining the final liability of the companies, the legal position and the provisions of Drug Prices Control Order would kept in view. The process of review of the findings of the Special Team in the Supreme Court case and finalisation of the liabilities in other cases is already in progress.